

## We Win in the End - Acts 12:18-25 - January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- I suppose you could say this is another one of those passages that makes you wonder why it's included for us in the pages of scripture.
- There are some graphic details that are given to us in what happens to Herod in the end. It almost borders on "too much information."
- One has to wonder why it is that God wants us to know this information. I suggest to you, it's because it has a present day application.

- In our day, the anti-God and anti-Christian movement to get God out of everything has seemingly gotten some traction as of late.
- If you didn't know what the Bible says about how it's all going to end, you would almost begin to wonder if evil will triumph over good.
- I believe that God included this last part of Acts chapter 12 to encourage us and remind us how it's all going to end. We win in the end.

- It doesn't matter who wins the presidency of the United States of America, in this an election year.
- The Herod's, of this world, who persecute and murder the Christians, and want to destroy the church, will always lose in the end.
- Let's take a closer look, into our text, at this King Herod and see if we can see what it is that God wants to show us about him.

- First; which Herod was this?

This was Herod Agrippa, the son of Aristobulus, and grandson of Herod the Great; he was nephew to Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist, and brother to Herodias. He was made king by the Emperor Caligula, and was put in possession of all the territories formerly held by his uncle Philip...  
Adam Clarke

- Second, why do we need to know this much information about this Herod?
- Because he's the personification of everything anti-Christian.
- If you haven't noticed, the anti-Christian spirit of Herod is alive and well in the world today.

**1 John 4:3** ...every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. NKJV

### 1. Herod is a murderous man-pleaser - (Verses 18-19)

18 In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. 19 After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while.

(Back in verse 3 of this chapter we're told that when Herod saw that killing James pleased the Jews, he had Peter arrested as well.)

v18 tells us that the next morning after Peter escaped, there was a huge commotion among the soldiers as to how it happened.

v19 says that after Herod conducted a search for Peter and cross-examined the guards then had them executed as was their penalty.

v19 also tells us that Herod left Judea and went to Caesarea probably to attend the games held there to honor his friend Claudius.

**Crosswalk.com** - Christian Bashing - Dr. Gary Cass, President and CEO of the [Christian Anti-Defamation Commission](http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/mdaniels/11564544/), says that 2007 was a high-watermark year for "Christian Bashing," ... As a partial means of proof, Gary offers seven significant offenses, including the deliberate execution of 4 believers in Colorado, the attacks on Jerry Falwell literally *hours* after his passing, CNN's "God's Warriors," and others. ... There is little doubt that attacks on Christians and their faith are on the rise, and will only increase over time.

<http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/mdaniels/11564544/>

### 2. Herod is angry and argumentative - (Verse 20a)

20a He had been **quarreling** with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him.

v20 says that Herod had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon who had joined together to seek an audience with him.

"The word [quarreling] or 'highly displeased' is thumomagon, and it is very expressive. Thayer states it means 'to carry on a war with great animosity; to be very angry; exasperated; highly displeased.'  
Ivor Powell "The Amazing Acts." p207

### 3. Herod is controlling and manipulative - (Verse 20b)

20b ... Having secured the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply.

v20 They had secured the support of Blastus who was a trusted personal servant to King Herod and asked to resolve the argument.

v20 Also tells us the reason for this was because they depended on the king's country for their food supply. (Bite the hand that feeds you)

### 4. Herod is vain and self worshipping - (Verse 21-23)

21 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. 22 They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." 23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

v21 The day that they had their audience with him, Herod wore royal robes and sat on his throne to deliver a public address to the them.

v22 They shouted that "this was the voice of a god, and not of a man."

v23 Because he did not give the glory and praise to God, and angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

- Have you ever wondered why people like Michael Jackson and more recently Brittany Spears are so messed up?
- It's because they are not gods but are worshipped as if they are. Man was never created to be worshipped, but rather to worship.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** 23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. NKJV

### CONCLUSION - (Verse 24-25)

24 But the word of God continued to increase and spread. 25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

v24 In spite of Herod persecuting and murdering Christians, the Word of God continued to increase and spread.

v25 Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem having finished their mission taking with them John Mark.

History is filled with the stories of men who thought they could fight God and succeed; their ruined lives are evidence that it can't be done. Friedrich Nietzsche was the philosopher who coined the idea that God was dead, and that Christianity was a despised religion of weaklings. Fighting God drove him insane, and he spent the last several years of his life in that condition. Sinclair Lewis won the Nobel prize for literature, and fought against God in his book *Elmer Gantry*. The book was about an evangelist who was also an alcoholic and would sleep with any woman he could. Sinclair Lewis died a hopeless alcoholic in a clinic near Rome. Writer Ernest Hemingway lived his life of adventure and sin against God seemingly without consequences - until he blew his head off with a shotgun. Fighting against God just doesn't work.

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